

vicariorum et aliorum presbiterorum sui ordinis
indiximus faciendam,
quam die Veneris proxima ante festum apostolorum
Philippi et
Jacobi (April 26), anno gracie m^occc^o tercio, ad hoc
sibi prefixo,
in manerio nostro de Wilton¹ super articulo recipimus
supradicto,
idemque vicarius unacum dominis Johanne, rectore
ecclesie B.M.
juxta portam castri de Eboraco, Johanne et Johanne,
de Whamira
et de Wyverthorp' ecclesiarum vicariis ac Roberto,
Johanne, Alano,
Stepheno et Willelmo, de Nafferton', Driffield*,
Wetewang', Foston'
et Wintringham ecclesiarum presbiteris
parochialibus fidedignis,
de memorato articulo legitime se purgavit; propter
quod ipsum
vicarium sic purgatum pronunciamus et immunem
sentencialiter
declaramus, restituentes eundem ad suam pristinam
bonam famanu
In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus
est appensum/*

⁸⁷ *Early Chancery Proceedings*, Bdle. xviii, no. 137;
Bdle. xix,
no. 2155 ; Bdle. xxiv, no. 255 ; Bdle. xxxi, no.
348. See also

A. Abram, *Social England in the Fifteenth Century*,
1909, pp. 215-17.

In view of these examples, it seems probable that a
more thorough
examination of the Early Chancery Proceedings
would show that,
even in the fifteenth century, the jurisdiction of the
ecclesiastical
courts in matters of contract and usury was of
greater practical
importance than has sometimes been supposed.

⁸⁸ Surtees Soc., vol. Ixiv, 1875 (*Acts of Chapter of
the Collegiate*

Church of Ripon) contains more than loo cases in
which the court

deals with questions of contract, debt, etc.

The case which is

dismissed "propter civilitatem causae" occurs in
1532 (Surtees

Soc., vol. xxi, 1845, *Ecclesiastical Proceedings from
the Courts of*

Durham, p. 49).

⁸⁹ Chetham Soc., vol. xlv, 1901, *Act Booh of
the Ecclesiastical
Court of Whalley*, pp. 15-16.

⁸⁰ Surtees Soc., vol. Ixiv, 1875, *Acts of
Chapter of the Collegiate
Church of Ripon*, p. 26.

⁹¹ Hale, *op. cit.* (note 85 above), no. ccxxxviiiL

^w See Chap. III, p. 162.

^w For parishes, see S. O. Addy, *Church and Manor*, 1913, chap. xv, where numerous examples are given. For a gild which appears to have acted as a bank, see *Hist. MSS. Com.*, 14th Report, Appx., pt. iii, p. 228 (*MSS. of the Borough of King's Lynn*), and for other examples of loans, H. F. Westlake, *The Parish Gilds of Medieval England*, 1919, pp. 61-3, *Records of the City of Oxford*, ed. Win. H. Turner, 1880, p. 8, *Statutes of Lincoln Cathedral*, ed. C. Wordsworth, pt. ii, 1897, pp. 616-17, and Unwin, *The Gilds and Companies of London*, 1908, p. 121. For a hospital/see *Hist. MSS. Com.*, 14th Report, Appx., pt. vii, 1895, p. 129 (*MSS. of the Corporation of Bury St. Edmunds*}, where 20^s. is lent (or given) to a poor man to buy seed for his land. A statement (made half a century